



Including ALL,
Changing Attitudes

Where do we go next?

As EqUual Access begins its 10th year, we have an opportunity to reflect on what's going well, what isn't, and how we need to change to enhance our mission.

Much of our energy in these early years has gone into advocacy and education at the UUA and General Assembly, in an attempt to leverage our people power to reach decision makers. The AIM Program, though incremental in its approach, is designed to shift attitudes at the congregational level. We've had some successes so far, though there is still much more work to do.

There are many projects we've thought of, but haven't had the capacity to enact. And there are so many projects that we haven't even dreamed about yet! The creative potential of our community is enormous.

We've also found along the way that some of our institutional structures and processes have been hard to work with and maintain. We are not as dynamic as we might be because of it. And these challenges to our mission have gotten more formidable in the last few years. We are an organization led by volunteers, and in the last few years, every person in our leadership has had some major demands in their life that has meant less energy for EqUual Access - some of us more than once!

An organization of people who are accustomed to finding creative solutions to a world full of barriers should have a culture and a structure built for flexibility, and an easy way for people to move in and out of active roles.

To that end, we are embarking on a re-imagining process.

We're putting together a team of people who've been involved in our leadership recently and others who will bring a fresh perspective; some who are well grounded in our mission and history and some with an institution building perspective. In the coming months, this team will be reaching out to our members for your ideas and input. We will keep sharing about this as it unfolds, and to be successful, we will need your involvement and support so that the next ten years can build on and surpass the work with which we have begun.

NOW HIRING: AIM ADMINISTRATOR

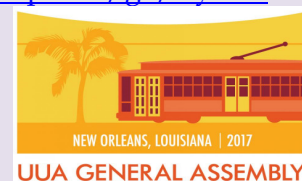
Our beloved Access and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Administrator Michelle Avery Ferguson will be leaving her position to pursue another career opportunity. We will miss her dearly.

As a result, we are now hiring for a new AIM Administrator. The details of the job description and how to apply can be found at: <http://www.equalaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Administrator-job-description-AIM-Program-2017.pdf>

We look forward to hearing from candidates for this important position.

Volunteers are needed to staff the EqUual Access Booth at General Assembly. Meredith Plummer, Director of Family Programming at the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati says this about her experience working at the booth: *There is something almost magical about the EA booth. Maybe it is the energy that flows around GA. Maybe it is because I am talking about disability, a justice issue I am passionate about. Or, maybe it is because I know that with each person I talk to I am shaping the future of Unitarian Universalism. But, when I get behind the EA table, I almost become someone completely different. I am forward, informative, and ready to connect with anyone. Whereas in most situations interacting with other people might drain me, these interactions sustain me.*

Are you going to GA? If so, please consider volunteering. You can sign up by going to <http://signup.com/go/tryUPa>.



Lineup of GA Events (for those going to General Assembly)

Be UU: Stand Resist with Us

Anti-Ableism Photo Shoot
 EqUUal Access/ AIM Booth # 408
 Daily Photo Shoot Times: 10:00 and 3:00. Craft materials will be available. Create your unique statement of resistance and strike your best pose for a special multimedia project.

Wednesday 6:15-7:15 pm
 Hampton Inn Cotton Mill Room
1st ever gathering of disabled religious professionals/religious professionals with disabilities.
 Co-sponsored by UUA Dept of Ministry & Faith Development, UUMA, LREDA, UUAMP

Thursday 3:30-4:30 CC 213
AIM Gathering -- a time for people from local AIM teams to share

Friday 1:30-2:30 CC 213
EqUUal Access Celebration -- presenting 2nd annual sermon award; welcoming 2 newly certified AIM congregations; honoring deceased members; what's next?

Saturday 3:15-4:30 CC 215-216 (workshop)
The Right to be rescued: Climate & Disability
 Disasters disproportionately affect people with disabilities. As the frequency and severity of disasters rises with climate change, the courts have recognized that we have a right to be rescued. Hear the stories, learn about emerging best practices, and explore how you and your congregation can be part of creating solutions.

Winner Announced in Second Annual EqUUal Access Sermon Contest



Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Jackson for her winning sermon, Disability, Identity and the Circle of Life. Dr. Jackson received her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine. Presently a resident of Denver, she is using her experience as a physician and a person with a disability to work on health policy issues in Colorado. Dr. Jackson helped to create a workshop on disability for medical providers and has been to over a dozen clinics around the state to facilitate training of the material. Among her many accomplishments is being appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to the State Medical Assistance and Services Advisory Council. Dr. Jackson is a member of the First Universalist Church of Denver and hopes to attend seminary in her quest to become a UU minister.

The award will be announced during the EqUUal Access Celebration at General Assembly on Friday June 23rd from 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm in Room 213 of the Convention Center. The sermon is available on the EqUUal Access website.

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